

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 11 (cancelled).

- 1 12. (new) A machine for making a nonwoven web
2 comprising:
3 a drawing assembly for drawing filaments which
4 pass therethrough with air to form drawn filaments,
5 a diffuser having an inlet zone formed by a
6 convergent nozzle and a divergent nozzle connected to
7 said convergent nozzle for opening drawn filaments
8 which pass therethrough into opened filaments,
9 a rail for electrostatically charging said opened
10 filaments to form charged filaments, and
11 a receiving belt for receiving said charged
12 filaments,
13 wherein a slot is formed between the drawing
14 assembly and the diffuser for delivery of a flow of air
15 onto said filaments, said slot opening to ambient air
16 for intake of air by a venturi effect produced in the

17 divergent nozzle by air passing therethrough with said
18 drawn filaments, and
19 said convergent and divergent nozzles slow the
20 passing filaments to enhance spreading of the filaments
21 by said electrostatically charging and thereby
22 cooperatively obtain an improved spreading of the
23 filaments and a reduced rebound phenomena of filaments
24 on said receiving belt.

1 13. (new) The machine of claim 12, wherein said
2 drawing assembly includes a drawing slot outlet from
3 which the drawn filaments are emitted, said drawn
4 filaments being received in said diffuser inlet zone,
5 and said slot delivers said flow of air at said drawing
6 slot outlet to reduce the air speed and the speed of
7 the passing filaments.

1 14. (new) The machine of claim 13, wherein a
2 second slot remote of said first-mentioned slot extends
3 through said diffuser and opens into said divergent
4 nozzle for injection therein of air by venturi effect

5 produced in the divergent nozzle by air passing
6 therethrough with said drawn filaments.

1 15. (new) The machine of claim 14, wherein said
2 slots take in air by venturi effect only.

1 16. (new) The machine of claim 15, wherein said
2 rail is located between said divergent nozzle and said
3 receiving belt.

1 17. (new) The machine of claim 12, wherein said
2 rail is located upstream from said divergent nozzle.

1 18. (new) The machine of claim 17, wherein said
2 convergent and divergent nozzles are connected by a
3 rectilinear slot.

1 19. (new) The machine of claim 18, wherein said
2 rail is located in said rectilinear slot.

1 20. (new) A machine for making a nonwoven web
2 comprising:

3 a drawing assembly for drawing filaments which
4 pass therethrough with air to form drawn filaments,
5 a diffuser having an inlet zone formed by a
6 convergent nozzle and a divergent nozzle connected to
7 said convergent nozzle for opening drawn filaments
8 which pass therethrough into opened filaments,
9 a rail for electrostatically charging said opened
10 filaments to form charged filaments, and
11 a receiving belt for receiving said charged
12 filaments,
13 wherein a slot is formed in the divergent nozzle
14 for delivery of a flow of air onto said filaments, said
15 slot opening to ambient air for intake of air by a
16 venturi effect produced in the divergent nozzle by air
17 passing therethrough with said drawn filaments, and
18 said convergent and divergent nozzles slow the
19 passing filaments to enhance spreading of the filaments
20 by said electrostatically charging and thereby
21 cooperatively obtain an improved spreading of the
22 filaments and a reduced rebound phenomena of filaments
23 on said receiving belt.

1 21. (new) The machine of claim 20, wherein a
2 second slot remote of said first-mentioned slot is
3 formed between said drawing assembly and said diffuser
4 for delivery of a flow of air into said filaments, said
5 slots opening to the ambient air for intake of air by a
6 venturi effect produced in the divergent nozzle by air
7 passing therethrough with said drawn filaments.

1 22. (new) The machine of claim 21, wherein said
2 drawing assembly includes a drawing slot outlet from
3 which the drawn filaments are emitted, said drawn
4 filaments being received in said diffuser inlet zone,
5 and said second slot delivers said flow of air at said
6 drawing slot outlet to reduce the air speed and the
7 speed of the passing filaments.

1 23. (new) The machine of claim 22, wherein said
2 slots take in air by venturi effect only.

1 24. (new) The machine of claim 21, wherein said
2 rail is located between said divergent nozzle and said
3 receiving belt.

1 25. (new) A machine for making a nonwoven web
2 comprising:
3 a drawing assembly for drawing filaments which
4 pass therethrough with air to form drawn filaments,
5 a diffuser having an inlet zone formed by a
6 convergent nozzle and a divergent nozzle connected to
7 said convergent nozzle for opening drawn filaments
8 which pass therethrough into opened filaments,
9 a rail for electrostatically charging said opened
10 filaments to form charged filaments, and
11 a receiving belt for receiving said charged
12 filaments,
13 said convergent and divergent nozzles slowing the
14 passing filaments to enhance spreading of the filaments
15 by said electrostatically charging and thereby
16 cooperatively obtaining an improved spreading of the
17 filaments and a reduced rebound phenomena of filaments
18 on said receiving belt.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include FIGS 1, 2 and 3. These substitute drawings include uniformly thick lines and reference numerals that are more clear. In addition, the reference numerals 14 and 15 are remote of the drawing lines.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets